

**COMMISSION ON TECHNOLOGY
e-COURT SUBCOMMITTEE
APPELLATE COURTS SUBTEAM
MEETING SUMMARY**

August 23, 2006
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

State Courts Building Room 230

**SUPREME COURT MEMBERS
PRESENT**

Vice Chief Justice Rebecca Berch
Justice Andrew Hurwitz
Marcia Klinker
Ellen Crowley
Casceil Aronson
Sue Bunnin

**APPEALS DIVISION ONE
MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chief Judge John Gemmill
Vice Chief Judge Ann Timmer
Judge Patricia Norris
Clerk of the Court Phil Urry
Ruth Willingham
Tony Mackey
Fred Cole
Linda Colwell
Gerald Page

AOC STAFF

Stewart Bruner, *ITD*
Gary Graham, *ITD*
Karl Heckart, *ITD*

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Justice Hurwitz, chair of the Commission on Technology's e-Court Subcommittee, welcomed participants and had them introduce themselves. He described the need for coordinating e-court efforts at the appellate level to ensure they stay on track. He recapped the e-Court subcommittee's strategy and principles as well as the importance of getting to electronic filing in courts.

DISCUSSION AND QUESTIONS

Justice Hurwitz named Karl Heckart to head this appellate level working group and promised his services along with those of Judge Gemmill to work out problems this group is unable to solve. He also asked group members to approach problems creatively and not just say, "There's a rule," acknowledging that eventually all rules will change to accommodate electronic filing.

Judge Gemmill declared that Division One is "on board" beginning with the Yavapai record transfer pilot and growing to be able to handle appeals from Maricopa Superior. His ultimate goal is attorney-to-court e-filing using a multi-vendor model. Division One has just received approval to purchase and implement an electronic document management system that will act as the foundation for e-filing. Various participants reported on recent visits made to Yavapai and Maricopa County Superior court related to e-record on appeal pilot and multi-vendor filing.

Karl Heckart focused on the labor saving nature of electronic filing and emphasized that courts are on a path to get there as quickly as is reasonable. He provided the context for the Yavapai pilot and how progress needs to be made incrementally to first get design decisions and then refine them as we see how things are working. He talked about the concept of a supply chain of digital data that runs throughout the justice community and the possibility of attorney-to-court filing within a year through adopting as much of the Maricopa multi-vendor technology as is feasible at the appellate level.

Members asked various questions related to the timeline for obtaining records on appeal from Yavapai, whether the same materials used for Division One appeals would be used for Supreme Court appeals, what was being done to promote electronic signature, whether scanned images were searchable, and how documents would be located within the electronic record being transmitted.

WRAP-UP

Justice Hurwitz reminded participants that the problem lies not with technology, but culture. He asked Karl Heckart to set a standing meeting at which everyone working on appellate e-filing-related projects could provide their status and raise issues. The presence of the specific people in the room for this kickoff meeting was not mandated as long as representatives from the judges, clerks, and staff attorneys groups are present.